



Abstract of an Accident

92-7

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall
INJURY: Fatality
TYPE OF WORK: Removing bolt fasteners holding asbestos wall panels, using the lean-to roof as a work platform
EQUIPMENT: None
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Roof opening unprotected, fall protection not provided

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A worker fell forty feet through a 40"x40" roof opening while working on a lean-to roof, removing bolt fasteners and boards from existing asbestos wall panels attached to the adjoining building

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Roof opening unprotected with workers exposed

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- The contractors' safety plan was not implemented concerning fall protection
- Loose polyethylene materials were near the roof opening creating a potential tripping hazard
- Scrap sheet metal flashing was near the roof opening creating a potential tripping hazard
- The worker was wearing a respirator and disposable clothing required for the removal of asbestos materials that may have impaired his vision and limited his mobility

LESSONS LEARNED:

- The use of fall protection could have saved the employee's life
- The prime contractor should have implemented "phase hazard analysis" as required to prevent unsafe conditions
- Implementation of the contractor's safety plan would establish standard acceptable work practices and raise the workers level of awareness

Your **SAFETY** contact is...